



June 1997

Volume XXVI Issue 6

Jim's Journal

Volume IV



May 23, 1997

H a m s p l a t t e r

If you would have looked at the thermometer much you would have a hard time telling it was May. In fact the Dayton Hamfest seemed to have moved back to April again. Luck was with us though, when my wife, Anne (KA9YYI) 46 others and myself took the Ft. Wayne Radio Club Bus trip to the Dayton Ham Fest. The adventure started at The Hughes Parking lot at 4:00 A.M. sharp Saturday. There was plenty of coffee doughnuts O.J., and yawn's The trip was mostly uneventful except for coming upon an unfortunate trucker who missed the turn on to I 75 and ended up crashing his truck into a creek bed. It seemed that the Fest was more relaxed this year, maybe the unusually nice sunny weather just made every one feel good. Our Many thanks go out to Cliff and the gang for organizing the trip again. Good work!

The spring banquet this year featured five "Old-timers" who entertained the Eighty or so members in attendance with a program entitled "Reminiscing the Good Old Days of Ham Radio during the 30's, 40's, & 50's". Al Moore, W9JJX * 1930 Ray

Yeranko, W9LWK * 1932 Elvin Miller, * 1939 Paul Mike Burns, W9YRL * 1936 And Bob Sievers, W9FJT * 1939, explained to us how their passion for Ham radio led them into some mischievous adventures in their younger years. Imagine "borrowing" the receiving tubes from Mom and Dads radio so you could be on the air. Or how about swiping the neighbor's carbon mike element from their telephone to use on the rig. Or "bootlegging"!!! Yes our honored speakers opened their souls to us that night, figuring the statute of limitations had run out. We also heard that the original goal in Bob Sievers life was to be a Country & Western singer. He played a tape of a Cowboy song he had done, and by doggies I think he could have made it.

The May Foxhunt is over now, yours truly being the fox. The lair was a

**Next Meeting:
Friday
June 20, 1997
7:30 PM
The Good Shepherd
United Methodist
Church.**

short suburban dead end road on the West Allen County border. The First place hunter was KB9DOP and crew. Sixteen people were involved with the hunt this month. Our newest Hunter is Joe Wills, KB9QLT. We enjoyed having you Joe, hope to see you next month.

The speaker for next months meeting is a surprise speaker, as a matter of fact I'm not quite sure who it will be myself. I have talked with several

people and now waiting for a conformation from one of them.

As always I'll close this column this month with a couple of witless statements: Suicide is the most sincere form of self-criticism. If you think there is good in everybody, you haven't met everybody.

73's Jim, K9OMA



May Minutes

1. The May meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 9 May 1997. This meeting was in fact the Club's Spring banquet and attracted about 90 participants. It was hosted by President Jim Pliett.
2. The minutes from the April meeting were read and there were no corrections.

**Fort Wayne
Radio Club**

Since 1920

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Al Burke, WB9SSE, Secretary 637-1989, Carl Rittenhouse, N9NRO, Treasurer 485-4012, Larry Burke, N9HVP, Communications Manager

3. Treasurer Carl Rittenhouse reported that as of 9 April 1997 the Club's General account held a balance of \$5935.55, the Hamfest account held a balance of \$500.00 and the Repeater account held a balance of \$2354.44.
4. Jim reported that the April Foxhunt featured Carl Rittenhouse as the prey. Carl hid out in a van in a driveway at St. Francis College and was eventually tracked down by winners Jim and Ann Pliett. Jim also reported that the Foxhunt point leaders through April are Cliff Shreve and Walt Wood.
5. Jim reported that both the 146.76 and 440 MHz machines were sick and would require a maintenance visit.
6. It was noted that the Dayton Hamvention Bus was sold out again this year.
7. Following the business meeting, the assembled were treated to a delicious dinner organized by Ann Pliett. No one went away hungry.
8. After the meal Jim introduced our special guests and long time Hams Ray Yeranko-W9JOQ, Elvin Miller-W9HF, Al Moore-W9JJX, Paul Mike Burns-W9YRL and Bob Sievers-W9FJT. Ray served as MC and in turn introduced each of our guests who provided us with stories of their experiences in Ham radio from the early years of the club.

RESPECTFULLY

SUBMITTED, AL BURKE,
WB9SSE



INARRL BULLETIN 46-97

GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS)

June 1, 1997

The term Global Positioning System has become popular enough now days that one has to only mention GPS and the average ham would probably have an idea about this technology. This technology seems to have crawled out of the clouds during the Desert Storm military conflict era involving Iraq. Today one can walk into the Wal-Mart department store and purchase a low end Garmin brand for around \$140.00 or if you want to jump in at the top probably \$600.00 could be relieved from your wallet. Variances in these sale prices have been observed from some businesses and changes will no doubt continue to drop the price as the popularity of these units continue in the future.

Gordon West/WB6NOA who has been a guest speaker at the AC-ARTS hamfest in Fort Wayne the past few years has presented a program on GPS technology and applications. Your inarrl bulletin manager does not claim to be an expert on this subject matter, but will present some of the very basic concepts. I recently purchased one of the GPS units and been enjoying some

rather novice fun in learning some procedures.

The GPS is a network of 24 satellites, which orbit the earth, originally launched by the NASA, and are now maintained by the U.S. Air Force. This system was originally designed exclusively for military use, and can be used for navigation on land, sea or in the air. The technology is now available to the general taxpayer in the form of a small hand-held receiver unit about the size of a HT radio.

There appears to be two mode levels of system operation, one is precisely more accurate for military use and the other mode is what the ordinary citizen can expect from a purchased receiver. A little study into the history of GPS seems to reveal several stages in releasing information, control and operational practices. The standard mode was intended for use by all GPS users and was accurate within a 100 meter horizontal location and over 150 meters height. This certainly seems just about accurate enough for anything KA9QWC would want to choose. The precise mode is apparently accurate to within a little over 20 meters horizontally and just over 25 meters vertical height. There is not enough space here to get into the frequency bands and many other operational aspects of the GPS.

I was also surprised to learn after purchasing my receiver unit that the time clock display was also driven through the GPS navigation system. Out of the box one has to provide information on country and state location and start on the road of obtaining a fix or home position where you are standing. The signals apparently are very weak and it does not take much to block satellite view for the receiver. My first trial was performed on a local mushroom hunt leaving my home station, the GPS receiver guided me precisely back to my starting point. My second attempt was on a jaunt in the Manistee National Forest in Michigan, the deep dark forest won out as it was

For Sale

- 45-foot tower, TA33 JR Tri-Bander and TR44 Rotor. \$100.00 if you take down.
- Tri-Bander (disassembled) Make offer. Contact Dean Whitesel WA9RRY at 484-1850

- Autek SWR/POWER meter HF. \$50.00
- Astron DC power supply 35 amp peak. \$100.00
- Alinco Dual Speed Rotor with control \$50.00
- Please Call Dick Erwin N9BNA at 744-9551 Evenings or 745-0825 Days

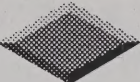
Wanted

- 35-Foot aluminum tower. Contact Carl Rittenhouse (N9NRO) at 485-4012.

All ads will run on a month by month basis. Please advise me if you need your ad run more than one month or you wish to extend your ad another month. My phone number is (219) 492-2138.

Thanks and 73s,

Todd Hargis N9XRG



HOW ABOUT A TICKET FOR THE FWRC DAYTON HAMVENTION BUS TRIP. TICKETS ARE \$15.00 A PERSON. A GUARANTEED GOOD TIME. DON'T DELAY, MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW BY CALLING KEVIN ADAM N9IWW AT 490-7312

Do you have an interesting article or cartoon which you can contribute to the Hamsplatter? Do you have some spare equipment collecting dust that you might want to sell? If so please contact me, Todd Hargis N9XRG, at 492-2138 (leave detailed message and phone number if no answer) or I can also be reached via e-mail at "hargis@mail.org".



July Hamsplatter Deadline: July 1, 1997

difficult to find sufficient clearings to obtain adequate signal strength.

The difficulty of grasping all the functions of the GPS receiver appeared to be like that of typical modern day ham HT. It takes practice learning to use the receiver and follow instructions. Also my unit could receive up to 7 satellites, more expensive units can pick up more and I believe there are antennas available for some. I would highly recommend trying out a demo unit to see if it would suit your needs. Good luck and have fun.

I would like to hear your comments on GPS. Do other nations have similar purpose systems? You bet they do more on that later.



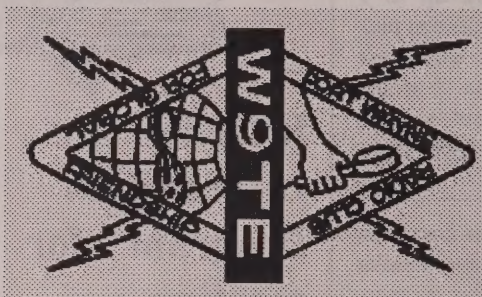
Internet Information Program for next meeting.

Back by popular demand this months meeting will feature an Internet demonstration with a question and answer session hosted by your editor (Todd Hargis).

We will surf the web, talk to other hams via Internet and in general just have a good time and hopefully learn something new. So bring your self and your questions and be ready to have fun.



HAMSPLATTER



**Fort Wayne Radio Club
Fort Wayne, Indiana**

To:

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